

5426

Human Services Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT

Members of the Human Services Committee:

I'm here today to testify on behalf of House Bill 5426: An Act Concerning Child Care Subsidies for the Unemployed Under The Care 4 Kids Program. I encourage you to support this legislation for the welfare of children and families across Connecticut.

Currently Care 4 Kids allows 30 days for parents or caretakers who have lost their jobs to regain employment. But with today's economy as it is, the reality is it will take longer for most people who are unemployed to secure new employment. As a parent member of Connecticut Parent Power and a member of the Vernon School Readiness Collaborative, I have heard many stories of parents losing their jobs leaving them unable to keep their children in quality day care or preschool programs. Why? Because the childcare subsidy they receive does not provide appropriate timeframes for parents to seek a new job in the economic climate being faced here in Connecticut as well as across the nation.

You might be asking what can be done to remedy a solution. Before you is a proposal to provide parents similar guidelines that the Department of Labor offers the unemployed. Parents, children, families need the extra time to secure employment while still providing a structured, quality program that children and families are comfortable with and know. The Care 4 Kids program does not currently have guidelines similar to those at the Department of Labor, which has extended benefits from 13 to 26 weeks.

I urge you to support House Bill 5426 not just for the children and families of Connecticut, but it is essential for the well being of the state as a whole. When considering this legislation for passage ask, how are Connecticut's children doing and will this legislation be a part of the glue that keeps children and families secure, happy, and healthy?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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